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2.—In the early days of California museums the custom was to label specimens not with the exact locality of origin, but rather with the published habitat or range of the species.

3.—A short time after Stejneger described *Xantusia henshawii*, I visited the type locality, at Witch Creek, and obtained three specimens. Some time later Rivers, on seeing these specimens in my office, said:

“I see you have *Xantusia vigilis*. I sent a specimen to Professor Cope.”

4.—Some years later Dr. Frank E. Blaisdell gave me a bottle containing several specimens of *Xantusia henshawii*, collected by himself at Poway, San Diego County, California. These he had labeled *Xantusia vigilis* and upon my asking where he had gotten that name for them, he said from Mr. Rivers to whom he had given one of the same lot of specimens a long time before.

It therefore seems almost certain that the type of *Xantusia picta* was collected by Dr. Blaisdell at Poway, San Diego, County, California; that it was sent by Dr. Blaisdell to Mr. Rivers; that it was wrongly identified by Mr. Rivers as *Xantusia vigilis* and labeled with the habitat of that species; and that Cope was thus led into error regarding the type locality of his supposed new species, *Xantusia picta*.

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A NOTE ON REPTILE COLLECTING.

Where reptiles are plentiful they are usually collected by means of a shotgun. One of the best that I have found for the purpose is built like a pistol, has 2 eighteen-inch, 22 and 44 gage barrels, and uses machine loaded cartridges with fine shot.

It will be found advantageous to carry specimens in a bag with a little corn meal or dry sand. On reaching camp they should be placed in water and left until all blood and foreign matter have soaked loose, when they should be washed and carefully spread out in a pan containing a quantity of 50% alcohol with which about one-twentieth of its bulk of formalin has been mixed. During the first few hours the specimens may be frequently turned over, and fresh fluid injected through abdominal incisions previously made. One incision is usually sufficient for a lizard, but several are necessary for a snake, and one should invariably be made in the tail just posterior to the anal opening. In one or two days the material with the possible exception of certain snakes is sufficiently cured to be closely packed with fresh formalin (about 2%) in glass fruit jars or small metal cases. Fine excelsior placed between specimens will prevent rubbing, assist in keeping them moist if the container should leak, and moreover things packed thus will not arrive at the museum distorted and broken as sometimes happens when they are wrapped with cloth.

Formalin is recommended only as a temporary preservative, and it should not touch specimens intended for osteological study. In all cases they should be removed from it as soon as possible. It is almost indispensable, however, in field work when one must go lightly equipped.

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